



ATTACHMENT A Remarks

New claims 20-25 are provided herewith in Attachment B which replace the previous claims 14-19. These claims are similar to claims 14-19, but corrected for purposes of form.

END REMARKS



ATTACHMENT B

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 14-19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body;

a second process of press molding a pair of hemispherical, shell-like pieces for forming the intermediate layer, wherein the pieces are composed of a rubber composition in a semi-vulcanized condition;

a third process in which the core is placed between the pair of pieces for forming the intermediate layer, the edges of mouths of the pair of the pieces for forming the intermediate layer are put into contact with each other, and the pieces for forming the intermediate layer are fully vulcanized by press molding; and

a fourth process of covering the outer surface of the intermediate layer that is obtained by the full vulcanization.

21. (New) A method for manufacturing the multi-piece golf ball according to Claim 20, wherein the second process comprises the steps of:

preparing a hemispheric upper part and lower part of the mold having concave portions;

preparing a middle part of the mold provided with separators having a size that can cover the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold, and a pair of hemispheric convex portions each arranged on the upper surface and the lower surface of the separator that are shaped so as to correspond to the inner surface of the intermediate layer; and

molding the pieces for forming the intermediate layer in the semi-vulcanized condition by placing the middle part of the mold between the upper part and lower part of the mold, filling the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold with the material for the intermediate layer, and press molding.

22. (New) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body, each rib being provided with a notch or notches;

a second process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each provided with a hemispheric concave portion;

a third process of molding the intermediate layer in the concave portions and notches by inserting the core between the upper part and lower part of the mold, filling the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold with the material for the intermediate layer that is composed of a rubber composition, press molding so that

the material for the intermediate layer spreads throughout a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs through the notches; and

a fourth process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

23. (New) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body, each rib being provided with a notch or notches;

a second process of preparing an upper mold and a lower mold each having a hemispherical concave portion;

a third process of molding an intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs by injection molding after inserting the core between the upper and lower molds; and

a fourth process for providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

24. (New) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball, the golf ball comprising:

a core;

an intermediate layer; and

a cover,

wherein the thickness of the cover is 0.8 to 2.4 mm;

the core has a spherical body and ribs that are arranged on the surface of the spherical body and have a height that is almost the same as the thickness of the intermediate layer;

the ribs are structured so as to extend along three great circles drawn on the spherical body in such a manner as to intersect each other at right angles, and have a height of 1.2 to 4.6 mm;

each circular arc section partitioned by the intersections of the great circles is provided with a notch or notches;

the length of the upper end portion in each circular arc section without a notch is no smaller than 10 mm and the depth of each notch is no smaller than 1.2 mm; and

the intermediate layer fills 8 concave portions surrounded by the ribs and disposed between the spherical body and the surface of the spherical body,

the method comprising:

a first process of molding the core;

a second process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each provided with a hemispheric concave portion;

a third process of molding the intermediate layer in the concave portions and notches by inserting the core between the upper part and lower part of the mold, filling the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold with the material for the intermediate layer that is composed of a rubber composition, press molding so that the material for the intermediate layer spreads throughout the entire concave portions through the notches; and

a fourth process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

25. (New) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball,
the golf ball comprising:
a core;
an intermediate layer; and
a cover,
wherein the thickness of the cover is 0.8 to 2.4 mm;
the core has a spherical body and ribs that are arranged on the surface of the
spherical body and have a height that is almost the same as the thickness of the
intermediate layer;
the ribs are structured so as to extend along three great circles drawn on the
spherical body in such a manner as to intersect each other at right angles, and have a
height of 1.2 to 4.6 mm;
each circular arc section partitioned by the intersections of the great circles is
provided with a notch or notches;
the length of the upper end portion in each circular arc section without a notch is
no smaller than 10 mm and the depth of each notch is no smaller than 1.2 mm; and
the intermediate layer fills 8 concave portions surrounded by the ribs and
disposed between the spherical body and the surface of the spherical body,
the method comprising:
a first process of molding the core;
a second process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each
having a hemispherical concave portion;

a third process of molding an intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs by injection molding after inserting the core

between the upper part and lower part of the mold; and

a fourth process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.